



## **Irish Draught Stallion Inspections: Terms and Conditions of Inspection 2025**

**Date: Wednesday 23 April 2025**

**Venue: Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BP**

### **Closing date for applications and x-rays: 15 February 2025.**

This document includes Terms and Conditions of inspection. Please read this carefully before applying to have your stallion inspected.

Inspections of Irish Draught horse stallions are run along the same principles and guidelines as the parent studbook holder, currently Horse Sport Ireland. The majority of the terms and conditions below are taken from their rules. There are a small number of minor variations in procedure due to legislation differences between Ireland and Great Britain, particularly around the veterinary examination arrangements (see below). These were agreed with the parent body at the time of harmonisation in 2011.

If you have any questions about the inspection procedures, please contact the Inspection Management Team at [inspections@idhsqb.org.uk](mailto:inspections@idhsqb.org.uk)

Please do not post questions on social media. We will not respond in public, nor do we answer questions through Facebook Messenger. You may receive inaccurate advice from other parties if you use social media to ask technical or procedural questions.

The inspections of Irish Draught Sport Horse and Partbred stallions have always been operated independently of the parent body in Ireland. They were never subject to the 2011 Harmonisation Agreement. Please see the separate guidance and application form for Irish Draught Sport Horse and Partbred inspections. Do not use this guidance for that purpose.

#### **1. Inspection-related veterinary requirements:**

##### **Option 1: (British or Irish stallions).**

The horse is examined by a vet who is listed on the 'HSI Radiography Panel' in Ireland or, in Great Britain, is a vet who sees equines as part of their normal practice.

The vet should be asked to carry out the pre-inspection vetting, complete the report form (this forms part of your application) and x-rays. The vet also takes samples for WFFS, EVA, EIA and CEM testing. The resulting health certificates also form part of the application.

The stallion will undergo a full clinical veterinary examination on the day of inspection.

##### **Option 2: (Stallions normally resident in Ireland only)**

Applicants from Ireland can opt to have their stallion undergo the veterinary examination prior to the inspection at one of HSI's Designated centres (i.e. see HSI's application form on their web site at [www.horsesportireland.ie](http://www.horsesportireland.ie), which gives details of the designated practices).

This option allows Irish applicants to have the stallion prepared for inspection with the knowledge that he has met the majority of the veterinary requirements in advance.

## Radiographs

Please download the Pre inspection Veterinary report and x-ray list and discuss the veterinary examination with your vet. Procedural advice can be sought from the Inspection Management team at [inspections@idhsgb.org.uk](mailto:inspections@idhsgb.org.uk).

If applying for a three year old colt's inspection, please do not have your horse x-rayed before 1 January 2025. This is because he cannot be x-rayed before he is officially three years old.

X-rays must be submitted in time to be read by our Panel within six months of being taken. Sometimes there is an issue with the images themselves, so you need to allow enough time for them to be repeated if necessary.

**Class 2 stallions** being re-presented for inspection can carry their x-rays forward. They will, however, need to have their pre-inspection vetting and endoscopy repeated.

Other stallions whose x-rays were taken and read in a previous year but whose inspections could not be completed, for example the stallion was not sufficiently prepared to complete the inspection tasks, or the owner was unwell on the day, do not need to have their x-rays repeated, so long as they were read within six months of being taken.

## Vaccinations:

Please ensure that your stallion complies with the F.E.I. EQUINE INFLUENZA rules as at 1 January 2024:

Equine Influenza and Tetanus vaccinations are a compulsory requirement for all horses registered with the Irish Draught Horse Society (GB) if you want to bring your horse forward for inspection or to show him/her at our affiliated shows.

Many of our inspection venues, including Moreton Morrell, will NOT admit unvaccinated horses. If vaccines are not recorded on the passport, there is no evidence that the horse has received them. Please check your horse's passport.

If the horse is new to you and he has not been vaccinated, you will need to start him on the programme. If he has been vaccinated but the vaccinations are not recorded in the passport, ask your vet to update the document from his or her records. Every year, horses come forward for inspection with incomplete vaccination records. Because of this, we ask you to check this before you apply.

## The requirement in 2024 for the first three vaccinations was as follows:

Vaccination	Protocol	Eligibility to enter venue
<b>Primary course</b>	Initial vaccination (V1): Day 0  Second vaccination (V2): Day 21 – 60	Cannot come to venue or compete  Can come to venue so long as the second dose was not given within seven days of the event
<b>First booster</b>	Within six months and 21 days of V2	Horses <b>must</b> have been vaccinated to comply with the requirements for the Primary Course.
<b>Subsequent boosters</b>	Minimum: within one year of previous booster	Horses <b>must</b> have been vaccinated to comply with the requirements for the

		Primary Course, First Booster and all subsequent boosters.
<b>Competing</b>	Within six months and 21 days of previous booster	Horses <b>can</b> compete for up to 6 months +21 days after V3, however they <b>cannot</b> compete if they have been vaccinated within 7 days of arriving at an event venue.

This rule may therefore be subject to change, in line with further anticipated guidance from the FEI/BEF.

Reference: [Vaccinations | FEI](#)

## Presentation

All stallions are expected to be presented at show standard and must be sufficiently trained and fit to take part in all aspects of the selection. The stallion should be in good (not fat) bodily condition, be well groomed and have well-maintained hooves.

## Inspection Panel

The inspection panel will consist of three senior inspectors (including the Chairperson) with sufficient knowledge, training and experience to produce a linear profile sheet and a set of overall scores for each stallion from their collective deliberations.

The Inspection Management Team makes sure that there is no potential conflict of interest. If this is a known connection, another inspector will be substituted for that horse.

At least one of the stallion inspectors will be a representative from Horse Sport Ireland. The other two inspectors will also have completed Horse Sport Ireland training and will have substantial experience of mare and stallion inspections.

For security reasons, it is our policy not to announce the inspectors' names in public because this could potentially lead to inappropriate contact prior to the inspection. If an owner does contact an inspector prior to the inspection, for example to seek advice, that inspector will not be allowed to inspect the animal.

Inspectors who are stallion owners are only allowed to inspect an animal if they have no business or close personal connection with the owner. They sign a Code of Conduct prior to the inspection once the applications have been received.

The inspector are supported by experienced administrators who take in your passport, ensure that the day runs on time, photograph the horses for the official inspection record, record the outcome of the veterinary examination and the linear profile.

The inspection manager on the day ensures that all paperwork is completed correctly and double checks that the inspection rules have been followed. The passport will be stamped with your horse's inspection grade and returned to you on the day.

If owners require the passport to have other amendments after the inspection, for example to change the breed registration number from U/I to Class 1 or Class 2, the Inspection Management Team cannot do this, so the owner will have to send it to the office for this purpose.

## The inspection will include the following elements:

### 1. Veterinary examination

2. Conformation assessment
3. In-hand gait assessment on a hard surface and in an indoor arena
4. Free gait assessment in jumping pen
5. Athleticism/jumping assessment in jumping pen (required for all three year olds) and under saddle (optional – Class 1 only, four years and upwards).

## 1. Veterinary Examination

On arrival at the veterinary examination the identification of the stallion will be checked by comparing the stallion's markings to the markings on its passport. The stallion will also be scanned to confirm its microchip number.

**Measurements** (height, bone and girth) will be taken during the veterinary examination and will be considered to be the official measurements of the stallion for classification and studbook purposes.

Stallions that are entered for the Stallion Inspections are subject to the FEI Anti-Doping and Equine Controlled Medication rules. Blood and urine samples may be taken from your stallion for this purpose.

### For Applicants undergoing Veterinary option 1 Only:

At the inspection, stallions will undergo a full five-stage veterinary examination by a veterinary surgeon appointed by IDHS (GB). The examination will consist of the following:

**Stage 1.** Preliminary examination: The preliminary examination involves overall visual and palpable observations of the animal presented. The heart and lungs are auscultated at rest.

**Stage 2.** Gait assessment & Trotting up: This includes co-ordination testing such as tight circling and reversing, trotting on loosened rein both before and after flexion of the individual limbs.

**Stage 3.** Strenuous exercise: Lungeing on lead at a working canter to assess wind and heart function. Heart & lungs auscultated on pull-up.

**Stage 4:** A period of rest: Recovery and management of stress associated with stage 3 can facilitate eye examination as pupillary dilation has occurred during exercise. Final heart auscultation.

**Stage 5.** The second trot and foot examination: Assessing maintenance of soundness as follow-on from the previous stages.

### For Applicants undergoing Veterinary option 2 only:

Stallions will undergo a soundness trot-up. Any stallion presented with an obvious veterinary condition may be subject to further examination by the appointed veterinary surgeon on the day of inspection.

## 2. Conformation Assessment

Handlers must present stallions to the inspectors in the indoor arena for their conformation assessment using linear scoring. Stallions must be able to stand correctly and quietly in order for the inspectors to make their assessment. No boots or leg wraps of any description are permitted at this stage of selection.

The linear score sheet for Irish Draught Horse inspection contains 45 characteristics, covering conformation, type, movement and athleticism traits.

## 3. In-hand gait assessment on a hard surface and in the indoor arena

The stallion will be required to stand for a visual inspection on a hard surface. When requested, the handler will walk the horse away from the inspection panel, around the marker and return to the panel. The handler will then repeat the process in trot, however, in trot the stallion should continue to trot past the inspection panel.

#### **4. Free gait assessment in jumping**

Handlers must lead the stallion in walk in a figure of eight around the two diamond shaped markers in the indoor arena. The handlers must then safely release the stallion and stand in one of the diamond shaped markers.

A trained arena team will be on hand to direct the stallion through its free gait, athleticism and jumping assessment.

Stallions will be shown loose on both reins in trot and canter. If you have chosen loose jumping on the application the jumping lane will be opened once the stallion's free gaits have been assessed. The stallion will be guided down the lane by the arena team for the free athleticism/jumping assessment.

All owners/handlers are given the option of catching and releasing their stallion between each jumping effort during the loose jumping element of the inspection.

If you have chosen that the stallion will present under saddle on the application form, he will leave the jumping pen once his free gaits have been assessed. This applies only to four year olds and over.

#### **5. a) Free athleticism assessment in jumping lane**

Each stallion will normally be required to jump through the jumping lane at least six times. The jumping lane consists of three fences. The inspection panel may use their discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles and the height of the fences; however, the maximum height of the fences for 3 year old stallions will be 1.00m.

If in the opinion of the inspection panel a horse is jumping in an unnatural manner, the inspection panel reserves the right to award zero points for their assessment of the stallion's athleticism/jumping ability.

*Note:* Stallions are permitted to wear front tendon boots for the free gait assessment or the free athleticism/jumping assessment. If, in the opinion of the inspection panel, the movement of the horse is affected in any way, the selection panel reserve the right to request the removal of the front boots.

The use of boots/bandages on the hind legs is not permitted.

The elements of the inspection may not necessarily be carried out in the same order as they are outlined above.

The IDHS (GB) reserves the right to terminate any inspection for health and safety reasons. For example, stallions that are unfit or insufficiently prepared for jumping may not (at the inspectors' discretion) be allowed to continue on welfare grounds.

Any offensive language or conduct towards officials or staff at the venue will not be tolerated and may result in termination of the stallion's inspection and/or an instruction for the individual concerned to leave the site.

Owners and other applicants sign a Disclaimer on the day agreeing to this condition.

#### **5. b) Athleticism assessment under saddle for additional bronze merit in showjumping**

The owners of stallions that are 4 years or older and meet the requirements to be classified as 'Class 1' can opt to have their stallion's athleticism assessed by jumping the stallion over a course of fences, including one double, at 1.00m level under saddle.

Stallion owners must indicate on the application form if they wish their stallion to be assessed under saddle for athleticism and, if they attain Class 1, for a bronze merit for their own performance in showjumping.

Please note that if there are very few stallions forward, we may have to impose an additional charge to hire show jumps to enable applicants to jump under saddle.

Class 1 stallions that achieve the required minimum in the athleticism assessment (70) will be awarded a bronze merit for their own performance in the discipline of showjumping.

Note: Irish Draught stallions that are classified as 'Class 1' can also obtain a bronze merit for their own performance in the discipline of showjumping by achieving two double clear rounds at 1.00m level at national competitions.

### **Additional rules with regard to the Moreton Morrell site**

**Equine Flu:** as per the Society's policy (see page 2 above).

**Passports:** All animals must have passports with them. These must be handed in to the Inspection Management Team on arrival or first thing on the morning of the inspection.

**COVID-19:** Please follow all current COVID-19 Government guidelines.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

### **Arenas and walkways:**

- Must be kept free of droppings throughout the duration of the booking.
- All arenas to be left clear of equipment and droppings on departure. Failure to do this may incur a charge a charge.
- All rubbish to be put in the correct bins onsite - recycling and general waste bins are provided.

**Stables: to be left clean and any bedding left up around the stable sides.** Stables which are left dirty after departure will be charged a fee which will be invoiced to the hirer.

*(NB: the IDHS GB charges a £20 deposit on booking the stable. This will be repaid by BACS or cheque after the inspection, provided the stable is left clean and tidy. Please cooperate with this. Our volunteers do not have time to muck out stables and this service is not included in the inspection fee.*

**Smoking: there is no smoking on site** (including vapes).

**Dogs:** must be kept on a short lead at all times.

### **Inspection appeal procedures**

Owners who are not satisfied with the results of the inspection will be given the opportunity to represent the stallion for one repeat inspection, under a different inspection team and administrator, at a future date.

In addition to the opportunity for one re-inspection (the current fee for which is £450 inc VAT), the owner may appeal in writing within 28 days of their inspection date.

Any appeal will be held at the next available suitable inspection venue and will involve a completely different inspection team. To reflect the significant cost of making these arrangements, the fee for an appeal is currently £1500 inc VAT.

### **Veterinary Examination Appeal**

Owners of stallions that do not meet the requirements of the veterinary examination on the day can appeal the results of the examination, providing that they apply in writing to the Inspection Management team manager within 28 days of the veterinary examination.

The stallion will have to be re-examined by a mutually agreed specialist for a second opinion.

The examination will only be carried out in respect of the condition for which the stallion was failed at the initial inspection.

The cost of the examination must be borne by the owner of the stallion. The decision of the appeal vet is final.

### **Publicity on the web site**

**All inspected Irish Draught stallions standing at public stud** in Great Britain will be listed in the IDHS (GB) Yearbook stallion listings and on the Stallions at Stud page on the website, unless their owners ask us not to publicise them, or if they have been gelded.

Owners of newly-inspected stallions must inform the inspection management team whether or not they intend to stand their stallion at stud, so that he can be listed in the Yearbook. The Yearbook deadline is 15 November.

If you wish your stallion to be publicised with a photograph on our website, a modified version of his inspection report will be made available as a download on the site. Owners may if they wish supply their own photograph, but measurements used will be those taken on inspection day. This applies to all stallions.

Please note that stallion owners sign a statement on their application forms to agree that this information will be made public if they choose to stand their stallion at stud.

We send out inspection results annually to Horse Sport Ireland, as our parent body, which is based in the European Union. For data protection reasons, we have to inform our members that this data includes the names of the stallions' owners in line with our Data Protection policy.

### **Use of public photos and video taken at the inspections**

The IDHS (GB) has authorised 1<sup>st</sup> Class Images photograph horses.

In the interests of confidentiality, owners are asked not to video or audio-record in other people's horses from any location other than the public gallery. Recording veterinary and inspection officials' deliberations is strictly prohibited.

Posting video recordings of other people's stallions on the Society's Facebook Forum is prohibited unless the person concerned has the owner's permission in writing. We have no jurisdiction over other sites.